

STATE OF ARKANSAS VOTER RIGHTS

Election Day Polls Are Open from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

YOU MAY VOTE IF:

You are a registered voter in Arkansas. New voters must register in their county at least 30 days before the election. If you are moving from one county to another within the state, your updated registration must be in the county clerk's office by the fourth day before the election.

Other Qualifications

- A U.S. citizen;
- An Arkansas resident;
- Age 18 or you will be 18 before the next election;
- Not a convicted felon who has not been discharged or pardoned;
- Not presently adjudged as mentally incompetent as to your ability to vote by a court of competent jurisdiction; and
- Not claiming the right to vote elsewhere – in another county in Arkansas or another state.

ID REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRST-TIME VOTERS WHO REGISTERED BY MAIL

If you registered to vote by mail after January 1, 2003, did not submit a copy of the required identification with the application, and are voting in an election for federal office for the first time in the state,

You Are Required To:

Present a valid Arkansas Driver's License or photo identification, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows your name and address to the election officials before being permitted to vote

If you do not present a required form of identification and you registered to vote by mail after January 1, 2003, you may vote a Provisional Ballot.

FAIL SAFE VOTING

When your current address differs from what appears on the Precinct Voter Registration List:

- A poll worker must contact the county clerk, and
- The county clerk must verify that your address is within the precinct.

When your new address is within the current voting precinct:

- You must complete the change of address portion of a voter registration application form to update county voter registration records.

When your new address is not within the current voting precinct:

- You must verify with the county clerk the proper voting precinct, and you must then go to the proper new polling site to complete the change of address portion of a voter registration application form to update county voter registration records and to vote.

When your name is NOT on the Precinct Voter Registration List:

- You must identify yourself by name and date of birth and you must be verified by the county clerk as a registered voter within the county.
- You must give and affirm your current address, and the poll worker must verify with the county clerk that the residence is within the voting precinct.
- You must complete an updated voter registration application, and
- You must sign the Precinct Voter Registration List

When your name differs from the Precinct Voter Registration List:

- You must complete a voter registration application form to update county voter registration records.

When your name is NOT on the Precinct Voter Registration List AND a poll worker cannot confirm your registration or when you are a first-time voter without proper identification:

- You may vote a Provisional Ballot after signing a written eligibility affirmation in the presence of the poll worker that you are a registered voter in the precinct in which you desire to vote and that you are eligible to vote in that election.

CASTING A PROVISIONAL BALLOT IF REGISTRATION STATUS CANNOT BE CONFIRMED OR IF THE VOTER DID NOT COMPLY WITH THE ID REQUIREMENT

1. A poll worker shall request the voter to provide a current and valid photo identification or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter. If the voter fails to provide this identification, the poll worker shall note such failure on the list of provisional voters.
2. A poll worker shall write the voter's name and address on the list of provisional voters.
3. A poll worker shall provide the voter a "Provisional Voter Envelope" and have the voter complete the affirmation portion affirming that he or she is a registered voter in the precinct and is eligible to vote in the election.
4. When the affirmation is completed, the poll worker shall initial the back of the ballot, remove the ballot stub and place it in the ballot stub container then provide the requested ballot to the voter.
5. After marking the ballot, the voter shall place the ballot in the envelope marked "Provisional Ballot" and seal the envelope (nothing else goes in this envelope).
6. The voter shall then place the sealed "Provisional Ballot" envelope into the "Provisional Voter Envelope," seal it, and give it to the poll worker.
7. A poll worker shall provide the voter with written information instructing the voter on how to determine whether or not the provisional vote was counted and, if not, the reason the vote was not counted.

CHALLENGED BALLOT PROCEDURE

1. A poll watcher must notify a poll worker of a challenge before the voter signs the precinct voter registration list. The poll watcher must complete the challenged ballot portion of the “Provisional Voter Envelope,” the voter must complete the voter eligibility affirmation portion of the Provisional Voter Envelope and the ballot must be treated as a “Provisional Ballot.”
2. A poll worker shall write the voter’s name and address on the list of provisional voters.
3. A poll worker shall initial the back of the ballot, remove the stub, then place the stub in the stub container provided.
4. The provisional voter shall vote his/her ballot.
5. The provisional voter shall place his/her voted ballot into the envelope marked “Provisional Ballot” and seal the envelope (nothing else goes in this envelope).
6. The provisional voter shall place the sealed “Provisional Ballot” envelope, containing his/her voted provisional ballot, into a “Provisional Voter Envelope,” seal it, and give it to a poll worker.
7. A poll worker shall provide the voter with written information instructing the voter on how to determine whether or not the provisional vote was counted, and, if not, the reason the vote was not counted.

YOUR RIGHTS AS A VOTER

Voter Registration

- You have a right to be notified of the status of your voter registration application.
- You cannot be denied the right to vote due to information missing from your voter registration application that does not affect your qualifications as a voter.
- You cannot be denied the right to vote based on race.
- Election officials must apply the same standards and procedures for every voter application to determine if it meets registration requirements.
- If you are otherwise qualified to vote in a presidential election, you may not be denied the right to vote for President or Vice-President based solely on the required length of time you have lived in a voting district.

Casting Your Ballot

- Specially equipped voting machines are available to voters with disabilities. Polling sites and voting equipment must be made accessible for the elderly and voters with disabilities.
- You may choose a friend or family member to assist you. You may ask poll workers for help; one will assist you and the other will oversee. No one who provides assistance may comment on your choices.
- No one may intimidate, threaten or coerce you for registering to vote, casting a ballot or helping others to register or vote.
- No one may attempt to interfere with or influence your vote nor may anyone attempt to stop you from voting.
- If you meet the voter registration requirements, election officials must allow you to vote and must count your vote.
- If a court order requires voting hours to be extended in a federal election, you must vote a provisional ballot if you were not in line at the scheduled time for polls to close.
- Qualified voters who are serving in the military or residing overseas are entitled to register and vote by absentee in a federal election.
- Ballots and other election materials must be provided in a language other than English if the number of minority-language voters in that district meets a minimum percentage, which varies with population totals.
- Election officials must keep all registration and voting records on file for 22 months after any election that includes a federal candidate.

ABSENTEE BALLOT POSSESSION
(A.C.A. § 7-1-104, as amended by Act 658 of 2009)

Be aware that possessing more than 10 absentee ballots may be considered intent to commit election fraud.

Exceptions include postal workers, properly authorized hospital or nursing home administrators and election officials who may possess an unlimited number of absentee ballots when acting in their official capacity.

ASSISTING VOTERS
(A.C.A. §§ 7-1-103 and 7-5-310, as amended by Act 658 of 2009)

The following officials may assist an unlimited number of voters who request help in marking and casting a ballot:

- *Poll Worker*
- *County Clerk*
- *Deputy County Clerk*

All other persons may assist no more than 6 voters in marking and casting a ballot at an election.

Contact Information

State Contacts

Arkansas Secretary of State's Office.....800-247-3312

Arkansas State Board of Election Commissioners.....800-411-6996

Federal Contacts

The Voting Section
Civil Rights Division
U.S. Department of Justice.....202-307-3266

U.S. Attorney's Office
(Little Rock).....501-340-2600
(Ft. Smith).....479-783-5125

Local Contacts

For information on how to contact your local County Clerk, County Board of Election Commissioners or your local Prosecuting Attorney, call the Arkansas Secretary of State's office at the number listed above.